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DIRECTORATE OF
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ARGENTINA: The armed forces commanders are growing increasingly dissatisfied with some of President Levingston's policies.

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[redacted] army commander in chief General Lanusse, who claims his views are shared by the other two service chiefs, has lost much of his enthusiasm for Levingston in the last two months. The military leaders have specific grievances, particularly in the economic and labor fields, but these are only symptomatic of a broader and not yet defined disagreement over the manner and timing of the planned return to "constitutional processes." [redacted]

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[redacted] Levingston's plan to hold elections in four to five years is no longer viable in view of the increasing economic uncertainty and the President's failure to capture the public's imagination.

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Lanusse believes that elections must be held sooner, but that they must be carefully controlled to prevent victory by a leftist coalition in which left-wing Peronists would have a dominant voice.

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[redacted] Levingston's current attempts to enact strongly nationalistic and populist economic measures in order to win favor with traditional political and labor sectors are doomed to failure and would take the country along paths that are not acceptable to the present armed forces leadership.

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[redacted] the service commanders hope they can persuade Levingston to accept their recommendations, particularly on the election issue, because they believe his removal would cause additional grave damage to Argentina's reputation and to the cohesion of the armed forces. [redacted]

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[redacted] Lanusse and the other military leaders will meet with Levingston early next week to discuss the President's handling of current problems. If the President refuses to go along, however, [redacted] the military leaders are prepared to move despite the heavy cost. [redacted]

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